

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	2:04-cr-00356-RCJ-RJJ
vs.)	2:03-cr-00413-RCJ-PAL
)	
CHARLES STEPHEN MANLEY,)	ORDER
)	
Defendant.)	
_____)	

Pending before the Court is Petitioner Charles Stephen Manley's identical Motions Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to Vacate, Set Aside, or Correct Sentence (ECF No. 35 in Case No. 2:04-cr-00356-RCJ-RJJ; ECF No. 52 in Case No. 2:03-cr-00413-RCJ-PAL). For the reasons given herein, the Court denies the motions.

I. FACTS

Petitioner pled guilty to one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm, 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(1) and 924(a)(2), as charged in the indictment in Case No. 3:04-cr-00356-RCJ, and the Court sentenced him to ninety (90) months of imprisonment, to be served consecutively with any sentences imposed in Case No. CR-S-00-273 RLH(PAL) and No. 2:03-cr-00413-RCJ-PAL, and to be followed by three years of supervised release. (*See* J. 1–3, Sept. 12, 2005, ECF No. 34, Case No. 2:04-cr-00356-RCJ-RJJ). At the same hearing, the Court re-sentenced Petitioner to ninety-six (96) months of imprisonment in the '413 case—which was for another instance of Felon in Possession of a Firearm—after a summary *Booker* remand from the Ninth Circuit. (*See* J. 1–2, Sept. 12, 2005, ECF No. 41, Case No. 2:03-cr-00413-RCJ-PAL). Petitioner timely

1 appealed the re-sentencing in the '413 case, based on an allegedly improper four-level addition
2 under the guidelines, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed. He now brings identical sets of § 2255
3 claims in both the '356 and '413 cases: (1) the Court violated his Eighth and Fourteenth
4 Amendment rights, as well as his rights under Rule 18 of the Federal Rules of Criminal
5 Procedure by not holding a Rule 11 competency hearing; and (2) his counsel was ineffective for
6 failing to request a Rule 11 hearing despite knowledge that he was mentally incompetent.

7 **II. LEGAL STANDARDS**

8 **A. Procedural Default**

9 Issues decided on direct review, or which could have been raised on direct review but
10 were not raised, cannot be brought in a § 2255 claim. *Reed v. Farley*, 512 U.S. 339, 358 (1994).
11 The former kinds of claim are res judicata, and the latter kinds of claim are said to be
12 “procedurally defaulted” and cannot be raised later in a collateral attack. *See id.* There are
13 exceptions to the procedural default rule when a defendant can show: (1) cause and prejudice; or
14 (2) actual innocence. *United States v. Ratigan*, 351 F.3d 957, 962 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *Bousley*
15 *v. United States*, 523 U.S. 613, 622 (1998)).

16 **1. Cause**

17 “Cause” means “some objective factor external to the defense” that impeded the
18 defendant’s efforts to comply with the procedural requirement. *McCleskey v. Zant*, 499 U.S. 467,
19 493 (1991). Among the reasons that can constitute “cause” are government coercion, *see United*
20 *States v. Wright*, 43 F.3d 491, 497–99 (10th Cir. 1994), ineffective assistance of counsel, *see*
21 *McCleskey v. Zant*, 499 U.S. 467, 494 (1991), and a “reasonable unavailability of the factual or
22 legal basis for the claim,” *see id.* Ineffective assistance of counsel is “cause” excusing
23 procedural default only where the failure rises to the level of a constitutional violation under
24 *Strickland*. *United States v. Skurdal*, 341 F.3d 921, 925–27 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *Strickland v.*

1 *Washington*, 466 U.S. 668 (1984)).

2 **2. Prejudice**

3 “Prejudice” means that “the constitutional errors raised in the petition actually and
4 substantially disadvantaged [a defendant’s] defense so that he was denied fundamental fairness.”
5 *Murray v. Carrier*, 477 U.S. 478, 494 (1986). A showing of prejudice requires demonstration of
6 a “reasonable probability that . . . the result of the proceedings would have been different. A
7 reasonable probability is a probability sufficient to undermine confidence in the outcome.”
8 *Vansickel v. White*, 166 F.3d 953, 958–59 (9th Cir. 1999) (quoting *Strickland*, 466 U.S. at 694)).

9 **B. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel**

10 Ineffective assistance of counsel claims are not procedurally defaulted, and such claims
11 may be brought for the first time under a § 2255 motion even if they could also have been
12 brought on direct appeal. *Massaro v. United States*, 538 U.S. 500, 504 (2003). The Sixth
13 Amendment right to effective assistance of counsel is violated when: (1) counsel’s performance
14 was so deficient so as not to constitute the “counsel” guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment; and
15 (2) the deficiency prejudiced the defense by “depriv[ing] the defendant of a fair trial, a trial
16 whose result is reliable.” *Stickland*, 466 U.S. at 687. There is a “strong presumption” of
17 reasonable professional conduct. *Id.* at 698. When this presumption is overcome and an
18 attorney’s “unprofessional errors” are such that there is a “reasonable probability” the result
19 would have been different had the errors not occurred, the defendant has been deprived of his
20 Sixth Amendment rights. *Kimmelman v. Morrison*, 477 U.S. 365, 375 (1986). “Reasonable
21 probability” is a lower standard than “more likely than not.” *Nix v. Whiteside*, 475 U.S. 157, 175
22 (1986). The analysis does not focus purely on outcome. *Lockhart v. Fretwell*, 506 U.S. 364, 369
23 (1993). The trial must also have been fundamentally unfair or unreliable. *Williams v. Taylor*,
24 529 U.S. 362, 391–92 (2000). Counsel’s tactical decisions with which a defendant disagrees do

1 not rise to the level of ineffective assistance unless the decisions are so poor as to meet the
2 general test for constitutionally defective assistance. *See District Attorney's Office for Third*
3 *Judicial Dist. v. Osborne*, 129 S. Ct. 2308, 2330 (2009).

4 **III. ANALYSIS**

5 Both claims are time barred. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1)–(4) (imposing a one-year time
6 limit from the time of judgment of conviction except in the case of government-created
7 impediments, newly discovered facts, or newly declared rights, none of which Plaintiff alleges).
8 Plaintiff's judgment of conviction in the '356 case became final on October 12, 2005, because he
9 did not appeal it. He filed the present motion over five years later. His judgment of conviction
10 in the '413 case became final on January 18, 2007 when the Court of Appeals affirmed his
11 conviction and sentence, because he did not file for certiorari. He filed the present motion over
12 four years later.

13 The first claim would fail even if it were not time-barred, as it is both procedurally
14 defaulted and without merit. Although usually referred to as a "Rule 11 hearing," a hearing to
15 determine a defendant's competency to stand trial (or to plead guilty) is governed by statute.
16 *See* 18 U.S.C. § 4241. Rule 11 simply requires a trial judge to satisfy himself with the
17 voluntariness of a defendant's plea. *See* Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(b)(2). Rule 11 itself not only makes
18 no reference to competency but does not even require a plea to be intelligent. It is the Due
19 Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment that requires that a guilty plea be intelligently made. *See*
20 *Boykin v. Alabama*, 395 U.S. 238, 242 (1969). A competency hearing is not required unless the
21 defendant or the Government requests it or the Court has "reasonable cause to believe the
22 defendant may be presently suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally
23 incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the
24 proceedings against him or to assist properly in his defense." 18 U.S.C. §4241(a). Petitioner

1 argues no cause or prejudice for defaulting on this claim, but even assuming cause and prejudice,
2 Petitioner does not allege that the Court had any indication of his alleged incompetence at the
3 change of plea hearing, only that his counsel did—Petitioner admits that the evidence of his
4 mental illness attached to the present Petition was not before the Court—so his claim of error by
5 the Court would fail on the merits even if it weren't procedurally defaulted and time-barred.

6 The second claim is for ineffective assistance of counsel, so procedural default does not
7 apply. Petitioner alleges "counsel knew petitioner has mental illnesses but did not move for
8 competency process." (*See* Pet. 7, Jan. 25, 2011, ECF No. 35). However, this claim is also time-
9 barred, and Petitioner does not allege government-created impediments, newly discovered facts,
10 or newly declared rights. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1)–(4).

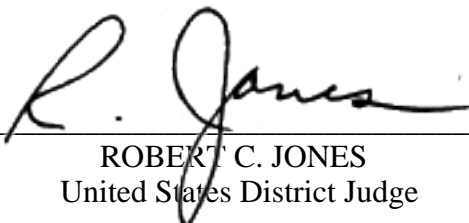
11 CONCLUSION

12 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Motion Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to Vacate, Set
13 Aside, or Correct Sentence (ECF No. 35) in Case No. 2:04-cr-00356-RCJ-RJJ is DENIED.

14 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Motion Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to Vacate,
15 Set Aside, or Correct Sentence (ECF No. 52) in Case No. 2:03-cr-00413-RCJ-PAL is DENIED.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated this 1st day of April, 2011.

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20 ROBERT C. JONES
21 United States District Judge
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